

THE

FAITH HERALD

December 2025 NEWSLETTER



MOVIE NIGHT AT FAITH

Mark your calendars and save the date for a fun evening at Faith. All are welcome!

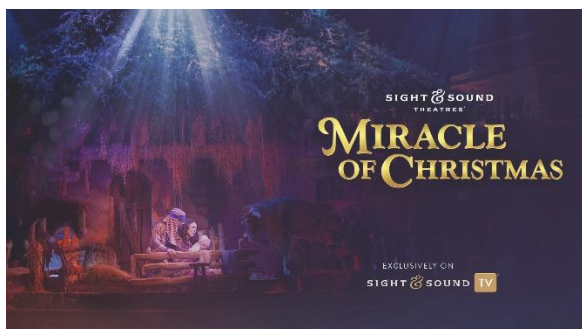
* **December 22, 2025**

* **6 PM**

* **Faith Lutheran Church**

This is a free event with popcorn & pizza! Big THANK YOU to the Richardsons & our Confirmants for putting on this wonderful evening! Please sign-up on the poster located on the bulletin board outside of the kitchen or call the office and let us know how many in your group.

NOW SHOWING



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH (FLC), ELCA

FLC is a family of God built on love: worshiping, welcoming, learning, and serving in Christ's name. All are welcome.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 AM

In Person: 171 Lewis LN

Hamilton, MT 59840

Live Stream: YouTube @

www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

or

facebook @

Friends of Faith Lutheran

Pastor Paul Anderson

509-844-1120

flchamilton.pastorpaul@gmail.com

FLC Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9 am-1 pm

Phone: 406-363-2964

Email:

faithlutheran59840@gmail.com

Website:

www.faithlutheranhamilton.org

facebook:

Friends of Faith Lutheran





P a s t o r ' s P o n d e r i n g s

Dear Friends and Members of FLC

I remember hearing a Pastor telling the story of a sermon she gave on Christmas Eve. There was a manger in front of the altar with straw in it and what looked like a baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger. But when she picked up the baby, it was actually a large loaf of bread. Her point was that Jesus came into the world to die and be raised on the third day, and when we commune, we are taking in the body and blood of Christ, given and shed for us, this baby so longed for so waited for. I like the way she tied in Easter and its relationship to advent and Christmas by using the loaf of bread. As we partake in the body and blood of our Lord, we also await for his coming again, just as those who were waiting for his birth during that first advent.

Advent is certainly a time of waiting, with our blue liturgical colors out and our blue candles adorning our advent wreath, we know that we are somewhere between darkness and light. We see advent from the promises in the Old Testament as we await the birth of the one who will save us all. But while we wait for the inbreaking of grace into the world in Jesus, we should not be afraid to take time and remember the fact that the grace experienced in the birth, life, ministry, words, death, and resurrection is always reflected in the church not simply when it celebrates the miracle of Christmas, but when it experiences God's justice rolling down like never ending waters. That justice, brought to us in Jesus, is what we seek and is what begins at Christmas, as we celebrate the ushering in of God's kingdom. This happens not only in big ways but small ways as well. It happens in the growing relationships, it happens when we gather together, when we convey signs of hope in a broken world, and in giving gifts. Even in these small experiences God makes us able to tell about our savior.

A Christmas birth leads us to Bethlehem, it leads to a cross, and an empty grave. It leads us to one another and new ways of living in grace, peace, and love. Have a wonderful Advent season! Have a merry Christmas and remember that Jesus came for you.

We have a lot planned at Faith Lutheran Church in the next month. It is my prayer for you, that God uses each thing on our calendar to strengthen your faith and deepen your love for God. Invite your friends to join you. After all, you never know how God might work through your kindness and compassion to answer your neighbors' prayer and fulfilling their best hopes for this month.

Partners in sharing God's grace,

Pastor Paul

Interested in "WHAT'S UP" at the MT Synod or the ELCA?

Check out their websites. You can even sign up for newsletters & weekly announcements!



www.montanasynod.org



www.elca.org

COUNCIL CORNER

November 2025



FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 2026 BUDGET

The **final budget**, to be approved by the congregation at a Special Meeting, will take place **Dec. 7th** after worship.

WORSHIP

- Evening Holden Prayer Services on Wednesdays Dec. 3rd 10th & 17th at 7 pm. All are welcome!
- Blue Christmas Service Dec. 7th at 7 pm, for the heavy hearted. All are welcome!
- Christmas program during regular worship on Sunday, Dec. 14th All are welcome!
 - Please consider participating and stay tuned for upcoming details
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Dec. 24th at 4 pm & 7 pm. All are Welcome!
- A Service of Lessons & Carols during regular worship on Sunday, Dec. 28th
 - Several opportunities to read a lesson or two

There is also a fun opportunity for families to light the advent wreath and read a short yet delightful liturgy during Sunday worships and at each Christmas Eve worship!

- The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex or call the office to have Jenny put your family's name down.

SERVING ON COUNCIL 2026

Opportunities to serve on the Faith Lutheran Church Council are available. If you are curious, please visit with a member of the nominating committee or any of the current council members. Your service is much needed and appreciated.

FLC COUNCIL MEMBERS:

President/Convener: Cory Keith
Communication: LaDonna Grotbo
Discipleship: Brooke Kimzey
Fellowship/Hospitality:
Susan Wetzsteon
Finance: Dean Drake
Outreach: Jane Mason
Property/Grounds: Greg Houser
Worship: Amber Richardson

FLC STAFF:

Pastor: Paul Anderson
Office Secretary: Jennifer Larson
Bookkeeper: Heather Wintergerst
faithlutheran59840.financial@gmail.com
Custodian: Rick Brown

You may reach out to council and staff members by:

calling: 406-363-2964

or emailing:

faithlutheran59840@gmail.com

If you would like to look at the Faith Lutheran Church Financial Statement, please email the Steward of Finance, Dean Drake:
flchamilton.finsec@gmail.com

COMMUNITY MEALS

Faith will not serve a meal in December as our meal falls two days before Christmas and there are no scheduled meals that week. As we come to the end of the calendar year, I would like to thank all in our Faith family who have supplied, prepared, and served the food during the past year. Your generosity is a gift that provides sustenance and hope every time we serve a meal. May you have a blessed Christmas with family and friends.

Tuesday, January 27th will be the next time we prepare a meal. Meal preparation will be at 1 pm in the Faith kitchen as usual and serving will be from 5 – 6 pm at Cornerstone Church. If you have any questions, you can always check with Linda Beyer, the Community Meal Coordinator at 406-207-3471.

There is always a concern for those who are food insecure in our community and perhaps even more so this year. So, if you are filled with the spirit of Christmas and would like to donate food items, they can be taken directly to local food banks or dropped off in the Haven House tub in the Faith narthex or donate money directly to Haven House through their website havenhousefoodbank.org or to the MT Food Bank Network. Their website is mfbn.org and their mailing address is 5625 Expressway, Missoula, MT 59808-9071. MFBN can purchase more food per dollar in bulk quantities with monetary donations and these items are then dispersed among all food banks in our valley.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – 158 BOXES!

The shoeboxes have begun their journey to spread Christmas joy! 158 were delivered to the local collection center where they were packed into larger shipping boxes and directed to a Processing Center. From there they will be shipped to children most likely in Central and South America but may also go to other areas of the world. Thank you to everyone who donated box items, packed boxes, donated money for shipping costs, and helped with set up and clean-up. A special thanks to those who volunteered to make sweet treats and to serve food during the Packing Party. God's love shines through you and your kindness.



December

Faith Lutheran Church, ELCA

2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Quilting 9 am-noon Evening Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	4	5	6
7 Worship 9:30 am Special Congregation Budget Mtg. after worship Blue Christmas Service 7 pm	8 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	9	10 Evening Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	11	12	13
14 Christmas Program Worship 9:30 am	15 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm	16	17 Quilting 9 am-noon Evening Holden Prayer Service 7 pm	18 Men's Breakfast 9am	19	20 Deadline to submit content for the newsletter (11:59 pm)
21 Worship 9:30 am	22 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm MOVIE NIGHT 6 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4 pm 7pm Office Closed	25 Christmas	26	27
28 Service of Lessons & Carols Worship 9:30 am Cookie Coffee Hour	29 Simple Way 3 & 5:30 pm Office Closed	30	31 Quilting 9 am-noon	Jan. 1 New Year's Day	Jan. 2 Office Open 9-1	Jan. 3

Mary S.	2	Susan P.	16	Emment H.	28
Shirley H.	3	Sandy R.	17	Dan M.	29
Vicki S.	4	Elaina L.	18	Emmalee P.	30
Steve S.	7	Cole H.	20		
Bob M.	8	John C.	21		
Holly M.	9	Peggy T.	22		
Lila F.	12	Sandy D.	26		
Josie V.	14	Grace R.	26		

